

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment and the following arguments are provided to impart precision to the claims, by more particularly pointing out the invention, rather than to avoid prior art.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejections

Examiner rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,883,014 (hereinafter "McErlean".)

"To anticipate a claim, the reference must teach every element of the claim. A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." (Manual of Patent Examining Procedures (MPEP) ¶ 2131.)

Independent claims 1, 7 and 13 of the present application includes limitations not disclosed or taught by McErlean. As a result, claims 1, 7 and 13 are not anticipated by McErlean.

In particular, as amended applicant's independent claims include the limitation, or limitation similar thereto, of:

. . . sending a ***subdivided sections*** of the plurality of sections of the message via the data communication system to ***separate agents*** based on the analysis of content. (Applicant's claim 1 as amended.)

McErlean does not disclose nor suggest the limitations of ***subdividing*** a message nor ***sending the subdivided sections to a plurality of agents***, as is claimed by applicant. Rather, McErlean is limited to disclosing having a first agent provide a partial response, and then passing the message on to a separate agent to respond to separate inquires of the message.

means for receiving from said selected agent a signal indicating that said electronic message is processed;

wherein, upon receipt of said signal, the distributing apparatus is arranged to determine, from said database, if said set includes one or more message classes in respect of which said electronic message is not processed and, in response to determining that said electronic message has not been processed in respect one or more message classes in said set, is arranged to select a further agent to which to cause said electronic message to be rendered, which further agent has a capability to process messages which belong to one or more of said unprocessed message classes. (McErlean, col. 3, lines 37-48.)

Therefore, as a result of applicant's independent claims 1 and 13 having claim limitations that are not disclosed nor suggested by McErlean, applicant's independent claims are not anticipated by McErlean.

Applicant's remaining claims depend from one of the foregoing independent claims and therefore incorporate the distinguishing limitations of the foregoing independent claims. Therefore, the remaining dependent claims are also not anticipated by McErlean.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections have been successfully traversed and that the application is now in order for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the application and allowance thereof is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



John P. Ward
Reg. No. 40,216

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GREENBERG TRAURIG, LLP
CUSTOMER NUMBER 56188
1900 University Avenue, Fifth Floor
East Palo Alto, CA 94303
Phone: (650) 328-8500
Fax: (650) 328-8508
E-Mail: wardj@gtlaw.com

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